

Hawaii MARINE

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Two Marines killed in OEF

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WASHINGTON — Two U.S. Marines assigned to 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, were killed during an intense, five-hour

gun battle in Afghanistan's Laghman province Sunday. As many as 23 insurgents are suspected dead.

According to military officials in Afghanistan, the Marines were conducting support and stability operations in the area when they received reports of insurgent activity near their location.

As the Marines maneuvered to

investigate, about 25 individuals attacked using small arms and rocket-propelled grenades. As the fighting continued, the insurgents split into two groups, one of which fled to a village and the others to a cave on a nearby ridgeline.

Air Force A-10 aircraft engaged the insurgents in the cave, and a squad of Marines went to assess the situation.

The two Marines were killed while clearing the cave area, military officials said.

"You did not need to meet these Marines to know them," said Col. Chris Blanchard, the officer-in-charge of the Marine Coordination Element at Combined Joint Task Force 76. "If you know any Marine, you know that they died courageous-

ly to protect all of us from the threat of terrorism. We mourn their deaths and extend our prayers to their families and loved ones."

Both Marines, Cpl. Richard P. Schoener, 22, of Hayes, La., and Lance Cpl. Nicholas C. Kirven, 21, of Richmond, Va., were supporting

See CASUALTIES, A-6

Taliban leader joins Afghan forces

Cpl. Rich Mattingly
Combat Correspondent

KUNAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan

— A former insurgent commander swore allegiance to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Asadabad, recently, agreeing to turn in his weapons and cease hostilities against Afghan and coalition forces.

As coalition forces have been hunting near the Afghan-Pakistani border for insurgent leaders, Najmuddin turned himself in to India Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, abandoning his run as one of the more elusive insurgent leaders.

The Marines were informed by a message that explained where the commander was located and his intent. The India Company leadership moved quickly to the designated location and, crossing over a bridge into the compound, came face-to-face with the man they were able to recognize only from an outdated photograph.

The former insurgent commander has been allowed to participate in the Allegiance Program, a program currently offered to Taliban and Hezb-E Islami Gulbuddin fighters who wish to stop fighting and start participating in the rebuilding of Afghanistan.

"We've been working on this guy for a long time," said 1st Lt. Justin Bellman, India Company executive officer. "It was just a matter of time before either we captured him, killed him, or he turned himself in. He made the right decision, and we're going to hope that he becomes a positive force in his community."

A ceremony which was attended by nearly 300 civic and religious leaders from across the Kunar province was the first step in the process of repatriation for Najmuddin, who explained to the Marines, through an interpreter, the reason he turned himself over to them.

"I am tired of running," said the former insurgent. "I realized that my community was suffering because of attacks on the coalition, and I did not want that any more."

His participation in the Allegiance Program comes on the heels of extensive duration operations around the areas Najmuddin was known to frequent in the Pech Valley. Aggressively approaching the detention of insurgent leadership in the area afforded Marines the success that had eluded other units.

"This individual orchestrated several attacks against coalition forces before we got here and began to conduct attacks against us in Nagalam from the moment we arrived. It did not take us long to let him know that we were not going to sit back and take that," said Lt. Col. Norm Cooling, commanding officer, America's Battalion. "Instead we took the fight to his backyard — to the difficult, cold and mountainous terrain of the Korangal Valley — a place where roads do not take you, and a place where coalition forces had not gone for any length of time before."

The Marines of India Company, once

See TALIBAN, A-6

'America the Beautiful'



Pic. Roger L. Nelson

Hula dancers perform during the playing of "America the Beautiful," at the National Day of Prayer celebration held at the Pacific War Memorial, May 5, on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Dog handler awarded medal of valor

K-Bay Marine earns high recognition for actions during Operation Al Fajr

Gunnery Sgt. Claudia LaMantia
Public Affairs Chief

On his way out of the Marine Corps, a military working-dog handler was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with the Combat Distinguishing Device for his actions in Iraq.

Brig. Gen. George J. Trautman III, commanding general, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, presented the medal to Sgt. Robert C. Barham during a ceremony May 2.

Barham left Hawaii last August as an individual augment to I Marine Expeditionary Force in Iraq. He and partner Cora, a 4-year-old German shepherd, were based out of Camp Baharia on the outskirts of Fallujah, Iraq.

There they worked with 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines and prepared to enter Fallujah during Operation Al Fajr, which rid the city from the insurgent's stronghold.

During the dawn hours of Nov. 8, 2004, the Jackson, Miss. native and seven other teams of dog handlers entered the city in order to search buildings for explosives so that other Marines could use the buildings, safely.

They dashed through numerous structures for more than four hours, constantly barraged

by mortar attacks and small-arms fire, according to Barham.

The sounds of exploding mortars, and rounds flying by, made the dogs anxious but did not deter them from the mission.

One of the buildings cleared that day became operations center for Headquarters Company and later for Company Lima, 3/5.

For the next seven weeks Barham and Cora continued with the task of clearing houses, business offices and warehouses. Collectively, they and the other teams found countless weapons caches, rifles, machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades and materials to make improvised explosive devices.

Weeks turned into months and the sounds of war slowly diminished, but even after residents had moved back into their city occasional shots could be heard, according to Barham.

The new year brought in the move toward the first free elections in Iraq, and citizens reactions varied.

Some of the Iraqis were very reserved, but others were openly grateful that the Marines were in their city, according to Barham.

Throughout the election process and afterward, the dogs continued using their skills to clear buildings but also dedicated more time searching vehicles at entry-controlled points into the city.

Last month the duos tour ended and they traveled back to Kaneohe Bay where they separated as the 26-year-old checked out of the

See BARHAM, A-6



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Sgt. Robert C. Barham, 26, Jackson, Miss. native and military working-dog handler hugs his partner Cora, Friday, outside their work area, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. Barham was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with the Combat Distinguishing Device for his actions in Operation Al Fajr in Iraq, November 2004.



Photo Courtesy of 1st Lt. Thomas Gibbons

A CH-53D Sea Stallion, assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, conducts terrain flight and external sling-load operations, March 18, during a training exercise at Camp Fuji, Japan.

Lucky Red Lions return

Cpl. Betsy L. Pagan

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363

Twenty-nine Marines from the advance party for Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, were welcomed back from a Western Pacific Unit Deployment to Marine Corps Air Stations Futenma and Iwakuni, Japan, April 24, by family and friends.

While deployed to Japan, members of the squadron were assigned to Joint Task Force 535 and Combined Support Force 536 where they provided support for

humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations in the wake of typhoon damage to the Republic of the Philippines; and tsunami damage to Thailand, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

Now back home in Hawaii, the Lucky Red Lion advance party is reunited with its 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) detachment that recently returned from a deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. Sgt Nathan Garcia, HMH-363 flight line mechanic, cap-

See LIONS, A-4

NEWS BRIEFS

3rd Marines to Change Command
Col. Gregory A.D. Boyle will assume command of 3rd Marine Regiment from Col. J.J. Patterson during a change of command ceremony at 9 a.m. Monday at Dewey Square on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Iwo Jima Revisited Presentation
In 2005, more than 80 Marines who were combat veterans from the battle at Iwo Jima returned with 300 plus family members, friends and interested parties to that historic battlefield. It marked the 60th anniversary of one of the bloodiest battles the Marines had ever fought.
Historian Daniel Martinez will take you along on the return to Iwo Jima, May 18, with a visual presentation of what it was like then and what it is like now. You will be able to visit the historic battlefield with the veterans as they retraced their footprints in the sands of Iwo Jima.
Light refreshments will be served at 6:30 p.m. followed by Martinez's program at 7 p.m. on the Bowfin Park lanai. This program is free and open to the public.
For more information contact Bowfin Park at 423-1341.

Sew a Lei for Memorial Day
In preparation for the 2005 Memorial Day Service on May 30 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific and other veterans' cemeteries on Oahu and the neighbor islands, all are invited to participate in the making of lei for the more than 50,000 graves of men and women whose service to our country will always be remembered.
All lei must be made of fresh flowers or ti leaves and measure 20 – 24 inches before tying. All lei must be tied. Floral sprays such as ti leaf and anthurium bouquets are welcome.

On the Windward side, lei can be dropped off May 27 between 9 and 11:30 a.m. at the Kaneohe Community and Senior Center and from 6 a.m. to noon at the Kaneohe and Kailua fire stations.
For additional information, please call 692-5106.

Silent Auction Slated for May 27
Support your community through participation in a silent auction to benefit an educational fund for the seven children of the Marines who perished in a helicopter crash in Iraq on Jan. 26.
The auction will be held on May 27 from 4 to 8 p.m. at The Officers' Club on Kaneohe Bay. Proceeds will be directed to the Armed Services YMCA, for distribution to the children's educational funds. Items have been donated by organizations such as Hilton Hawaiian Village, Wyland Galleries Makani Kai Helicopter Tours, Luana Hills Golf, Honolulu Zoo, Star of Honolulu, Hilo Hattie, Lowe's, Germaine's Luau, Global Village, Too Good Kayaks, GAP Inc., and various other businesses, restaurants and spa services. The auction is hosted and organized by the VP-9 Officers Spouses' Club, Marine Corps Base, Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.
For more information, call Erin Ellis at 206-7112.

CI/HUMINT Looking for Marines
The Marine Corps needs intelligent, motivated, multi-talented and ambitious corporals, sergeants and staff sergeants with less than eight years of service for lateral moves into the counterintelligence/human intelligence specialist MOS (0211).
For information on qualifications and training and operations call your career planner or call the U.S. Marine Forces Pacific CI/HUMINT branch at 477-8447 or 477-8956.

Mentors Sought for DEFY Camp
To volunteer to be a mentor for Kaneohe Bay's Drug Education For Youth camp, contact Daryl K. Picadura at 252-8552.

Important Phone Numbers	
On-Base Emergencies	257-9111
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188

Hawaii MARINE

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Staff Writer

Staff Writer

Staff Writer

Staff Writer

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Maj. Patricia Johnson

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Sgt. Joe Lindsay

Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Pfc. Roger L. Nelson

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CMC's vision focuses on individual Marines


Staff Sgt. Cindy Fisher
Headquarters Marine Corps

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS, Washington — The single most important weapons system in the Marine Corps' arsenal is the individual Marine, and the Corps' resources are aimed at enhancing this core capability.
That is the thrust of All Marine Message 018/05, signed April 18 by Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Mike Hagee. The Vision and Intent in the ALMAR updates the original guidance that was promulgated when he became commandant Jan. 13, 2003.
"We can talk about aircraft; we can talk about howitzers; we can talk about tanks; but the individual Marine is the most important part of the Corps," Gen. Hagee said.
To remain the nation's force-in-readiness and to meet the emerging challenges of the 21st century, the Corps needs to reorganize

"During Operation Iraqi Freedom when we marched to Baghdad, it was pretty much platoon against platoon, squad against squad, battalion against battalion," the commandant said. "In our case, sometimes, it was platoon against company and platoon against battalion — our platoon, their battalion. It was no match — they lost.
"The enemy learned that and they don't want to take us on in normal formation. They don't want to take us on one-on-one. So they are attacking us asymmetrically," he said.
Examples of this type of irregular warfare are improvised explosive devices, the propaganda insurgents are using in Iraq and the Oct. 12, 2000, attack on the USS Cole in the port of Yemen, the general said.
To combat irregular warfare, we are going to better equip, better train and better educate our Marines so that they can work faster than the bad guys, the general said.

"Marines throughout the world, either forward deployed or here in the United States, are doing a tremendous job and I would like to thank them for that. I would also like to thank their families for the support that we get from them. Our focus right now is to provide the best equipment and the best training that we can to all Marines in order that they are protected and that they will be able to do their jobs even better in the future."

— Gen. Michael W. Hagee
Commandant of the Marine Corps



to maintain a rapid response capability and technological edge on the battlefield. The commandant's Vision and Intent will do this through a focus on training, educating and equipping the individual Marine, in order to expand their battlefield capabilities.
The Corps' continued priority is the Global War on Terrorism, and Marines are doing a tremendous job in this conflict, Gen. Hagee said. But, the Corps also has an obligation to prepare for the future and "we believe that our future will be characterized by irregular wars," as stated in the ALMAR.
Irregular warfare, sometimes referred to as asymmetric warfare or fourth generation warfare, is conflict that deviates from the norm, according to the Navy War College Web site.

For example, to combat IEDs the Corps is developing technology to locate IEDs where they are assembled rather than wait till they have been emplaced on the battlefield.
Marines can also expect more cultural education at centers such as the Training and Education Command's Center for Advanced Operational Culture Learning scheduled to begin operation in October at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.
"A better understanding of the people we are trying to help and the people we are fighting — their culture, what they think is unimportant, what they think is important — will help us," said the general.

Salutes

Returned from deployment

Gunnery Sgt. Nohelia E. Fritz, 34
Marine Corps Community Services
Headquarters & Service Company
Hometown: Riverside, Calif.
Deployment location/dates: Iraq/Sept. 8, 2004 – March 31
Awards: Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal (9), Combat Action Ribbon (2), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2), Global War On Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (6), Global War On Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal (2), Marine Corps Drill Instructor Ribbon, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia), Southwest Asia Service Medal (2), Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait), Presidential Unit Citation-Navy, Navy Unit Commendation, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, Letter of Appreciation (2), Meritorious Mast

May 1 Promotions
Headquarters Battalion

Sgt. Corey R. Hoffman, 21
Installation Personnel Administration Center
Headquarters & Service Company
Hometown: Port Lavaca, Texas
Meritoriously Promoted
Awards: GWOTSM, National Defense Service Medal, Letter of Appreciation (2), Meritorious Mast

To submit information for "Salutes," send an e-mail to kristin@hawaiiimarine.com or call 257-8836.



Cpl. Louise L. Heinzelman, 22
Legal Chief
Headquarters & Service Company
Hometown: Lansford, Pa.
Awards: GWOTSM, National Defense Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon, Certificate of Commendation (2), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Meritorious Mast (2), Navy Unit Commendation

Lance Cpl. Jaime G. Hernandez, 21
Military Police
Headquarters & Service Company
Hometown: Santa Rosa, Calif.
Awards: GWOTSM, National Defense Service Medal, GWOTEM


Lance Cpl. Mark A. Raymond, 20
Supply Clerk
Headquarters & Service Company
Hometown: Madison, Miss.
Awards: GWOTSM, National Defense Service Medal, GWOTEM

Pfc. Floyd A. Brown, 22
Cook
Headquarters & Service Company
Hometown: Bronx, N.Y.
Awards: GWOTSM, Korean Defense Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Certificate of Commendation, Letter of Appreciation

Pfc. Eric J. Dekenipp, 21
TAD Orders Clerk
Headquarters & Service Company
Hometown: Glendale, N.Y.
Awards: GWOTSM, Korean Defense Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Certificate of Appreciation (2)

Weekend weather outlook

Today




Day — Partly cloudy skies, winds light and variable, 10-12 mph

Night — Partly cloudy skies, isolated rainshowers, winds out of the north-northeast light and variable

High — 82
Low — 74

Saturday




Day — Partly to cloudy skies, isolated mountain showers, winds out of the north-northeast, 9-12 mph

Night — Partly cloud skies, winds light and variable from the north

High — 81
Low — 73

Sunday



Day — Mostly cloudy skies in the morning becoming partly cloudy in the late afternoon. Winds will be normal trade wind pattern out of the northeast, 12-14 mph

Night — Partly cloud skies winds light and variable out of the NE 7-9 mph

High — 82
Low — 74



The Marine Forces Pacific Band, led by Staff Sgt. Christopher B. Carpenter, drum major, marches onto the field of Kuroda Parade Grounds, Fort DeRussy, Saturday, during a performance for the 9th Annual Twilight Tattoo. This year the Tattoo featured seven groups including the Marine Forces Pacific Band, 25th Infantry Division “Tropic Lightening” Band, Pacific Fleet Band, Air Force Band of the Pacific, Celtic Pipes and Drums of Hawaii, Moanalua High School Drill Teams and the 2nd Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group Pipes and Drums.



Members of the Marine Forces Pacific Band’s percussion section play a solo performance for the crowd at Kuroda Parade Grounds, Fort DeRussy, that received a standing ovation at the 9th Annual Twilight Tattoo, Saturday.

Marines showcase their talent with numerous solos, choreographed drill movement and unique marching techniques.



The Marine Forces Pacific Band plays a rendition of the “Marine’s Hymn” as fellow Marines run onto the field and reenact the flag raising at Mount Suribachi during their grand finale of the 9th Annual Twilight Tattoo on the field of Kuroda Parade Grounds, Fort DeRussy, Saturday. Their performance featured seven military and community marching bands.



Staff Sgt. Christopher B. Carpenter, drum major, leads the Marine Forces Pacific Band in song at the Kuroda Parade Grounds, Fort DeRussy, Saturday, during a performance for the 9th Annual Twilight Tattoo.

Marines receive standing ovation at Twilight Tattoo

Story and Photos By
Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Combat Correspondent

HONOLULU — The Marine Forces Pacific Band received a standing ovation by guests after their performance at the 9th Annual Twilight Tattoo, Saturday, at Kuroda Parade Grounds, Fort DeRussy.

Tattoo, translated from the Dutch word “tap-toe,” means to “turn off the taps.” The phrase originated in Europe when a drummer entered drinking establishments and sounded a cadence to signify to military personnel that it was time to call it a night and return to garrison.

As the drummer traveled from bar to bar, the military members would follow behind him, creating a procession by the nights end. Over time a bagpiper replaced the drummer and the tradition became a formal military event.

Each year the function is celebrated by military personnel around the world with performances by bands of each military branch of service, as well as other groups such as bagpipers and high school drill teams.

This year the Marines’ show, led by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Lauren L. LaVine, officer-in-charge, and Staff Sgt. Christopher B. Carpenter, drum major, both of the Marine Forces pacific Band, included numerous solos by the wind instrument sections as well as a very precise percussion solo, where three snare drummers incorporated stick flips and other eye-catching techniques into their show. The band not only impressed the crowd with their playing, but also with various unique marching techniques and drill movements.

The crowd responded to their finale with a standing ovation as well as grunts and howls of approval and awe as a reenactment of the flag raising at Mount Suribachi was performed on the field while the band performed a rendition of the “Marine’s Hymn.”

The event also featured performances by the 25th Infantry Division “Tropic Lightening” Band, Pacific Fleet Band, Air Force Band of the Pacific, Celtic Pipes and Drums of Hawaii, Moanalua High School Drill Teams and the 2nd Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group Pipes and Drums.

To conclude the event, the bands all came together and performed a massed bands finale which included “Hawaii Pono,” “Fairest of the Fair,” “Stars and Stripes Forever” and “Highland Cathedral.”

Students receive hurricane brief



Pfc. Roger L. Nelson
Lance Cpl. Christopher J. Dority, assistant meteorologist, Marine Corps Air Facility, explains the importance of safety during a hurricane to students at Mokapu Elementary School, May 3.

METOC Marines prepare base keiki for stormy season

Pfc. Roger L. Nelson
Combat Correspondent

Students from Mokapu Elementary School, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, recently received a hurricane brief by the Marines of Meteorological and Oceanographic Service. The briefing was to teach the students proper safety procedures during hurricane season.

“We give the briefs every year, right before the hurricane season actually starts,” said Cpl. Jason A. Ochoa, apprentice meteorologist analyst for METOC at the Marine Corps Air Facility, Kaneohe Bay. “We want the students to be prepared if the time comes.”

Ochoa, a El Monte, Calif. native, explained that hurricane season starts June 1 and ends Nov. 30, so the briefs are usually given in mid-May.

“We go over a lot of useful information with the kids,” said Lance Cpl. Joseph E. Hallars, weather technician. “Things like types of weather, such as floods and surges, are what we’ll teach the kids about.”

According to Hallars, the brief given to the students at Mokapu was the last of five briefs to be given

to them for this hurricane season.

“We broke it up into two days so we could get to all of the students,” said Ochoa. “The first day we gave the brief to kindergarten, first and second grade, and today we’re giving the brief to third, fourth, fifth and sixth grade.”

During the brief, students were also taught what types of materials should be stored and put into a hurricane box in case of a natural disaster.

“We play a game with the kids where we ask questions about what kind of things may be needed during a hurricane,” said Lance Cpl. Christopher J,

Dority, assistant meteorologist, METOC, and San Francisco, Calif. native. “If a student raises their hand and gets the answer correct, they get to come up and get a piece of candy and put that item in the hurricane box.”

Ochoa explained that the way the briefs are planned is that the schools principal gets in touch with MCAF and a date is set to do the brief with the children.

“It makes us feel good that we’re helping keep the students safe,” said Hallars. “I mean, in some sense, we’re teaching them things that could save their lives someday.”



Pfc. Roger L. Nelson
Students raise their hands to answer a question given during a hurricane safety brief, May 3, at Mokapu Elementary School, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

McDonald’s gets a makeover, Ba-Le comes to K-Bay

Yibeli Galindo-Baird
MCCS Marketing

Now you see it, soon you won’t. The McDonald’s on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, will soon be a thing of the past. Effective June 16, McDonald’s will close for a complete reconstruction that will last approximately 120 days. The current McDonald’s will be torn down and rebuilt to feature a look that is in keeping with corporate design specifications while incorporating a construction and finished style similar to that of K-Bay’s the new Post Office and Base Chapel.

“The new plan will increase the square footage from 2,400 to 4,200. Due to the new design and efficiencies, most of the area will be devoted to customer space and comfort,” said Logistics Manager George Kelsey.

The current facility was built in 1993 with medium-grade construction materials, due to the potential for base closure that many military bases faced at that time. In addition, the arrival of other fast-food chains to Oahu created competition, making the investment of additional funds for this venue highly questionable. Now, 12 years later and with a successful contract evidenced by the high traffic that this facility generates, daily, McDonald’s considers this the perfect time to make improvements as a way of showing their appreciation to the military, according to Kelsey.

The new facility will be different in many ways. The primary entrance will now be located in the front of the building leading to an ample dining room with plenty of open space to move around. The service counter will accommodate twice the quantity of current

patrons without any congestion.

“The new plan will incorporate the self-serve beverage area that is popular with the Burger Kings and being implemented in most of the new McDonald’s operations. The interior decor will be more comfortable and more in line with diners as opposed to fast-food chains,” added Kelsey. The exterior will consist of patio seating under several large pavilion-type structures, enabling freer traffic flow. A dual-lane drive-up will also be available for faster drive-thru service.

Kelsey said he is pleased with McDonald’s decision to reinvest in K-Bay. “This is a terrific project and is very important at this time. It shows McDonald’s willingness to give back and to uphold their image in the business arena. This new facility will add to the future plans of the base to improve the quality of life for our troops and their families,” said Kelsey.

In anticipation of the need for quick meals at good prices, Food and Hospitality Director John Nishida, has made arrangements for a new vendor to grace the K-Bay residents and employees with its tasty presence. “During the closure, Ba-Le Sandwich Shop will have a temporary trailer located in the Firestone parking lot, adjacent to McDonald’s, starting May 23. Ba-Le will feature breakfast and lunch selections including croissant sandwiches, chicken egg rolls, long rice plates and pho — Vietnamese rice noodle soups. Open Monday through Sunday from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., patrons will find this vendor to be an alternative until McDonald’s reopens.

For more information on the McDonald’s closure or the Ba-Le Sandwich Shop trailer, contact Food and Hospitality at 254-7639.



Illustration courtesy of MCCS Logistics
McDonald’s on Kaneohe Bay closes for a complete reconstruction starting May 16. The new facility will be twice as large as the current structure and will boast a new look that will integrate, architecturally, with the look of the new Base Chapel and Base Post Office. The closure will last approximately 120 days.

LIONS, From A-1

tured the mood of the returning Marines as the busses offloaded,

“Our squadron has been doing great things all over the world for the past nine months,” said Garcia “It’s great to get our team back together and combine our collective experiences to make our squadron even better.”

The squadron’s main body is expected to return later this month. Following some well-deserved leave, the Lucky Red Lions plan to resume a rigorous schedule of aircraft maintenance and aircrew training. Continued training serves to maintain a high state of readiness in order for them to better support short-notice, worldwide employment in support of Marine Air Ground Task Force operations.

To read the *Hawaii Marine* online, visit www.mcbh.usmc.mil.

Returned Marines offered recruiter’s assistance

Pfc. Roger L. Nelson
Combat Correspondent

During deployment, Marines from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 1st battalion, 12 Marine Regiment, and 3rd Radio Battalion endured months of tiring events the majority of people in the world will never encounter. “When Marines return back to the states, they need a little down time,” said Sgt. Robert L. Byrne, career retention specialist,

Headquarters Battalion. Because some of these Marines have been deployed for as long as 13 months, they just need a break from their jobs. Byrne explained one way the Marines who return from deployment get a break is volunteering for the recruiter’s assistance program. Marines who participate in this program return to their hometown recruiter’s office and help them sign people up for the Marine Corps. Volunteers for this program are chosen

on a first-come, first-serve basis, but whether or not the command is willing to allow the Marine to be away from the unit is the determining factor “The Marine first will have to make sure they can get temporary additional duty from their command,” said the Portsmouth, Va. native. “We have no limit on how many Marines go on RA; it’s just how many Marines their unit is willing to let go.” According the Byrne, when RA is given, it

usually is given for a period of 30 days, but can be extended or decreased, depending upon how many people the Marine can get to join the Corps. “Thirty days is just a starting number of days given to the Marines,” said Byrne. “If they’re doing a good job, then their RA duty can be extended.” For more information on volunteering for the recruiter’s assistance program, contact your first sergeant or unit career planner.

VISION, From A-2

and situational awareness is maintained through information technologies. The DO concept places greater responsibility on the individual Marine at the unit level. It further

decentralizes decision-making and leverages the skills of junior leaders. “Ten to 15 years ago, we didn’t have the real technology to enable us to take advantage of what the individual Marine can do,” the general said. “We have that technology today. When Marines find that seam or

weak point, they are going to be able to come back together as a unit and attack as a unit. Right now, no one else has that particular capability, he said. Starting in June, the Corps will begin experiments to learn two things. The first is to determine what

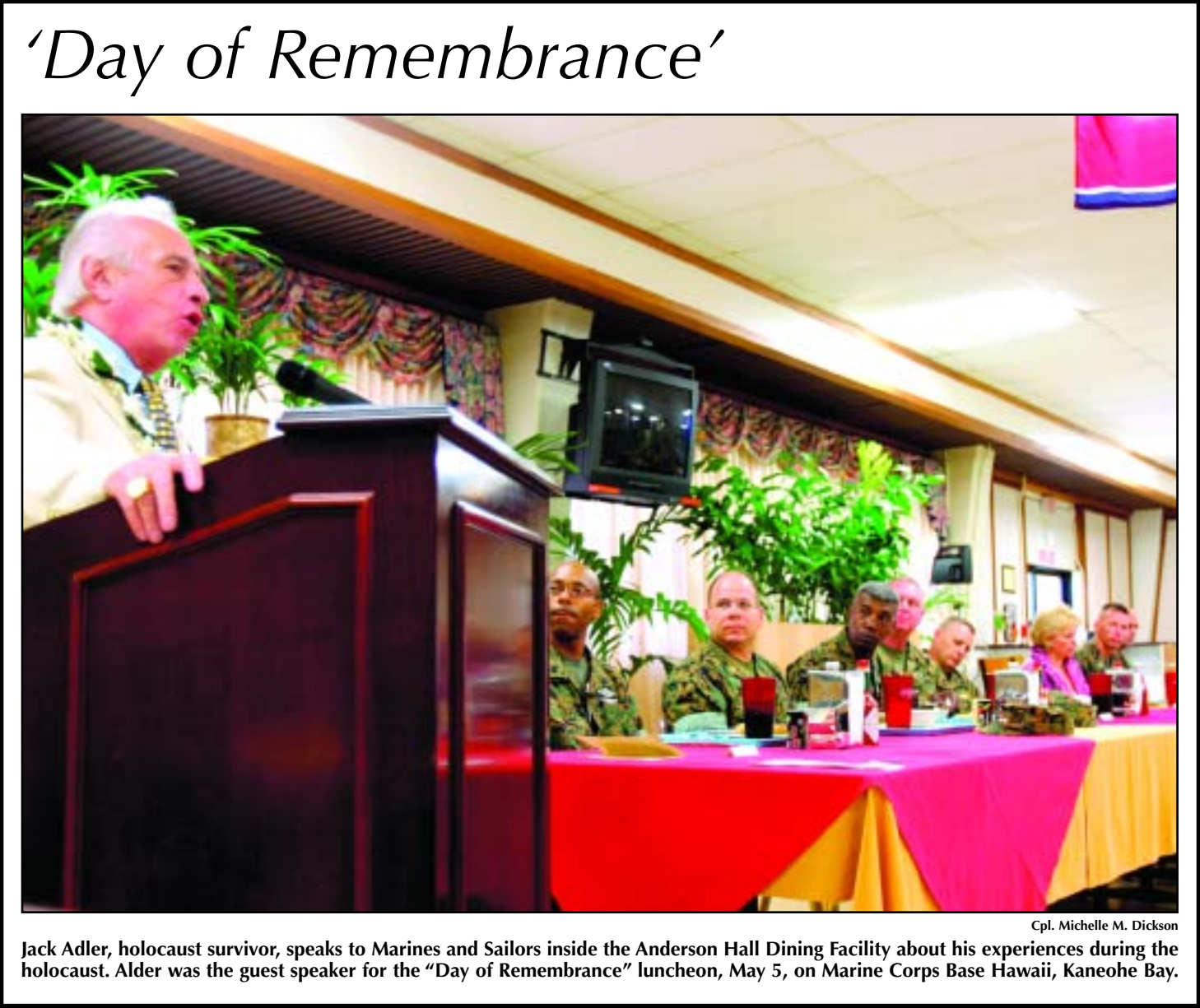
training Marines need to become proficient in Distributed Ops. The second is to identify the equipment that will allow them to remain connected to each other and to see what other squads or platoons see. To better meet the demands of future battles, the Corps is also shifting some of its capabilities, the general said.

During the next four years, the Corps is scheduled to stand up two additional active duty infantry battalions, three light armored reconnaissance companies, three reconnaissance companies, two force reconnaissance platoons and an air and naval gunfire liaison company. On the reserve side, the Corps plans to stand up an anti-terrorism battalion, two-light armored reconnaissance companies and an intelligence support battalion. All are capabilities currently in high demand, said the general.

To accommodate this change, there will be a reduction in the number of artillery, tank and low-altitude air defense units. Military occupational specialties totaling about 6,000 Marines will also be affected by the changes. Expect an increase in specialties such as intelligence, satellite communications, explosives ordnance disposal and civil affairs. A reduction in fields such as food spe-

cialist and fabric repair are also anticipated. But Marines should know that the Corps is going to take care of them, Gen. Hagee said. “If they are doing a good job and they want to stay in the Marine Corps, then we are going to ensure that happens.”

The Corps will also expend more effort to increase its counter-insurgency, counter-terrorism and internal defense of partner countries. Though the Corps spends a lot of time talking about and preparing for major combat operations, it spends a lot of time actually performing at the other end of the spectrum — small contingencies, Gen. Hagee said. “We should spend more time on cooperative security, training partner-nation armed forces so that they can better address any security issues that they have. So, ... if we have to go in, they ask us to come in and help, we already have a working relationship with them, and we can better help them. That’s why we’re standing up this Foreign Military Training Unit.” The commandant has given the deputy commandants and Marine Forces commanders various mission tasks to implement his vision, but it doesn’t end there. The general charges each and every Marine to read the Vision and Intent. “Truly read it and truly understand it,” Gen. Hagee said. “Then, you will have an idea of where we are really going to put our resources, ... and you’ll see that a lot of that has to do with education. A lot of that has to do with increasing our cultural understanding of other people, other religions and that’s also education. And you’ll also see that we are going to spend more time on equipping the individual Marine to be successful in the type of battlefield that we think he or she is going to be on the future.” To read ALMAR 018/05, visit www.marines.mil.



Beach bum



Sgt. Joseph A. Lee

A Hawaiian monk seal lounges on Fort Hase Beach, Monday, where Military Policeman Cpl. Justin Hecock found him while on a beach patrol in the early morning hours. According to Sgt. Jeremy Hoffman, game warden, this seal was just taking a nap and was not likely injured, but they still roped off the area to let the endangered seal enjoy it's 12-hour snooze. The small red tag is a National Marine Fisheries marker that was placed on the seal last year when he was dozing on North Beach.

CASUALTIES, From A-1

Operation Enduring Freedom and were assigned to Combined Joint Task Force 76 while serving in Afghanistan.

Schoener enlisted in the Marine Corps under the delayed entry program Sept. 6, 2001, and reported for recruit training at Parris Island, Calif., Dec. 11, 2001; he graduated from the School of Infantry April 23, 2002. He then attended Marine Corps Security Force training May 25 to July 19, 2002, before reporting to the Marine Corps Security Force Company at Kings Bay, Ga. He reported to his unit at Kaneohe Bay, Aug. 3, 2004, and deployed to Afghanistan Nov. 11, 2004.

Schoener is survived by his mother and father. His awards include the National Defense Service Medal, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service and Expeditionary Medals and the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon.

Schoener was born in Pottsville, Pa., and his home of record is Hayes, La. He graduated from Bell City High School in Bell City, La.

Kirven enlisted in the Marine Corps Dec. 13, 2001, and reported for recruit training at Parris Island, Calif., Aug. 26, 2002. He graduated from the School of Infantry March 14, 2003, and reported to his unit at Kaneohe Bay March 26,

2003, before deploying to Afghanistan Nov. 11, 2004.

Kirven is survived by his mother and father. His awards include the Navy Unit Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service and Expeditionary Medals and the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with second award. Kirven is a native of Richmond, Va., where he graduated from Douglas Freeman High School.

BARHAM, From A-1

Marine Corps and Cora was reassigned to a new handler.

Barham wanted to keep Cora, but she is too young to retire, so he's headed back to Jackson, Miss., without her.

When asked what the best part of his Marine Corps career had been he said, "Knowing that what I did made a difference, knowing that my job saved lives."

Barham said he plans to take it easy for the summer, before going to Nashville to pursue his boyhood dream of becoming a freight-train conductor.

TALIBAN, From A-1

tasked with eliminating the threat Najmuddin posed to stability in the area, applied constant pressure on him for two and a half months.

"In that time, he didn't have time to conduct attacks against our installations," said Cooling. "He was too busy trying to survive, and he finally got tired of it."

While he said the constant presence of well-trained Marines was the ultimate reason he turned himself in, it was also the humanitarian outreach and rehabilitation projects in his area that Marines participated in that convinced the former insurgent leader to come forth.

Bellman, who spoke with Najmuddin, said he expressed happiness with many of the good things he saw the Marines doing in the Pech Valley and that he knew his area was improving because of the Afghan and coalition forces.

Everyone greeted Najmuddin warmly in attendance at a meeting of Afghan elders, religious leaders and government officials, known as the shura, which coincided with the ceremony. Both he and the community leaders present expressed a sincere desire for peace. After giving a short speech, he was sworn to uphold his end of the agreement by the governor of Kunar. India Company Commander Capt. Jim Sweeney was present for the ceremony and signed the official document as a witness.

"He has sworn to cooperate with the government," said Sweeney, "Once he's in the program, he has to meet with community leaders, elders and

coalition forces on a regular basis to check in."

The governor of Kunar, Asadollah Wafa, said the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan hopes the program will put an end to local insurgencies and further drive a wedge between Afghans and the foreign-national terrorists who have been operating in Afghanistan. By accepting former insurgent "middlemen" like Najmuddin, he hopes that the money and support that keeps the insurgency alive in eastern Afghanistan will dry up.

The Allegiance Program is a program designed to bring many former, prominent Afghans into the new government, he said. As long as an individual has committed no crimes against humanity, he may get a second chance at citizenship.

"Everyone is happy that he finally turned himself in," said Sweeney. "The community supports his decision to do so, and I think that will make a big difference in how some other Taliban fighters react to us."

According to Sweeney, Najmuddin is only the first in a line of insurgents who he thinks will decide to lay down their arms and cooperate with the Afghan government. To facilitate that, America's Battalion will continue its aggressive operations throughout Afghanistan's eastern region.

"A lot of people want to come forward," said Najmuddin. "They are scared because they're not sure what will happen once they come forward. Once they see how well I have been treated, they will decide to turn themselves in."

DUIs are career killers

(Editor's Note: Per the commanding general of MCB Hawaii, those arrested for driving under the influence [DUI], driving while intoxicated or drug-related offenses shall be publicized in the Hawaii Marine.)

- May 6, Petty Officer 2nd Class Peter Pecoraro of VP-47. Driving under the influence after refusing a blood alcohol content test.
- May 7, Sgt. Jason G. Bowen of 3rd Marine Regiment. DUI with a BAC of .24 percent.